

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 6-8, filed 11 April 2008, with respect to the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4, 7 and 13 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is amended to specifically recite that the torsion spring, having a coil body and arms, is designed such that the coil body biases the cover member in a direction parallel to the rotary shaft and the arms are configured and positioned to bias the cover member in a direction in which the cover member is opened with respect to the hinge member. Examiner has not discovered this particular combination of features in the prior art, either in a single reference or in multiple references so as to render claim 1 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. The closest prior art discovered is the prior art of record, namely Lee (USPN 6,233,426 B1) in view of Vandervort (USPN 4,114,236) and Fujitaka (USPN 5,541,712). However, Lee in view of Vandervort and Fujitaka does not teach the particular arrangement and functions of the coil body and arm of the torsion spring used to bias the cover member with respect to the rotary shaft and the hinge member. Further, Examiner has not found additional prior art which anticipates claim 1 and/or renders claim 1 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. Claims 2-4 and 7 are deemed allowable at least due to their respective dependencies from claim 1. Claim 13 incorporates the allowable subject matter recited in claim 1 and is thus also deemed allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES A. THOMPSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Edward L. Coles/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

James A. Thompson
/J. A. T./
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

30 May 2008